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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2017

A regular meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court, Concord, New Hampshire at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. The following members were present:

Todd Leach, Chair
Steve Appleby (via telephone)
Donald Birx
Sr. Paula Marie Buley (via telephone)
John Curran (via telephone)
Steven DiSalvo (via telephone)
Susan Dunton (via telephone)
Anne Huot (via telephone)
Scott Kalicki (via telephone)
Peter Koch (via telephone)
Paul LeBlanc (via telephone)
David Mahoney (via telephone)
Eli Rivera (via telephone)
Mark Rubinstein
Melinda Treadwell (via telephone)

The following members were unable to attend:

Michele Perkins, Vice Chair
Jim Fitzgerald
Ross Gittell
Mark Huddleston
Lindsay Whaley

- 1) Chair Leach called the meeting to order and welcomed Melinda Treadwell, Provost, Antioch University New England.
- 2) Mr. Rubinstein moved, seconded by Mr. DiSalvo, to accept the minutes of October 11, 2016. The motion passed without dissent.
- 3) Richard Gustafson, Evaluation Team Chair, presented the Evaluation Report for Hellenic American University's request for continuing approval to offer all degrees until June 30, 2018. The site visit was held October 2-4, 2016 in Athens, Greece with Dr. Robert Henry, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of New Hampshire also participated. Hellenic American University met

all Commission standards and it was recommended the Commission vote to affirm its approval of degree-granting authority to Hellenic American University for its currently approved programs through June 30, 2018 to align with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Comprehensive Evaluation in the fall of 2017, with the following provisions:

- a. Provide the Commission with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges correspondence and self-study materials related to its fall, 2017 Comprehensive Evaluation.
- b. As part of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges self-study, include updated information on enrollment figures, budget to actual financials, the status of the New Hampshire operation, the status of the MAAL/ESOL program in New Hampshire, any curricular changes, progress in achieving approval to offer Title IV federal financial aid, and public disclosures as required by the NEASC.
- c. Provide the Commission with complete and timely information should planned operations in New Hampshire become different, or expanded upon, than the co-location cooperative agreement with Nashua Community College.
- d. Provide the Commission with the opportunity for a representative to observe the NEASC Comprehensive Evaluation Visit in November, 2017.

Mr. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Curran, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent.

- 4) Richard Gustafson presented Rivier University's request for continuing approval to offer the Doctor of Education in Education Leadership and Learning and the Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology. Dr. Gustafson reviewed the Annual Report for the Doctor of Nursing Practice, along with the extensive and comprehensive Self-Study Report for the Doctor of Education Leadership and Learning and the Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology. It was recommended the Commission vote to accept the Doctor of Nursing Practice Annual Report in lieu of a planned Commission site visit in the spring of 2017. Also, to extend approval of the Doctor of Education in Education Leadership and Learning and the Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology through June 30, 2018 to align with the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

This would align all Commission approvals for Rivier University's doctoral programs with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation timetables. Should Rivier University's Fifth Year Interim Report in the fall of 2017 reveal issues of concern, the Commission could then schedule a site visit to the University in the spring of 2018.

Further, should the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Fifth Year Interim Report demonstrate continued program strength and sustainability, and if the Doctor of Nursing Practice program achieves Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing candidacy, and the Doctor of Psychology in Counseling and School Psychology program achieves American Psychological Association candidacy, then the Commission would consider granting continuing approval for these programs. If approved, then from that point on the Commission becomes an observer to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing, and the American Psychological Association accreditation processes as its way to ascertain continued program strength and viability.

Director MacKay thanked Dr. Gustafson for his work assisting the Higher Education Commission with institutional evaluations.

Mr. Kalicki moved, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent, with Sr. Paula Marie abstaining.

- 5) Director MacKay presented highlights of the Director's Report. Major highlights included:
- a. Update on the 2017 Legislative Session and time spent at the Legislative Office Building testifying/observing at several hearings/sessions on bills that would impact postsecondary education, namely the creation of a statewide Children's Savings Account Program, and other bills addressing the workforce issue, student debt, and scholarship proposals that would reduce the net tuition price.
 - b. Update on the search process for the Director's replacement. A conference call with the Executive Committee will be scheduled to discuss the process. Chair Leach thanked Director MacKay for his flexibility and help until a successor was chosen.
 - c. Update on St. Joseph School of Nursing's Focused Evaluation Site Visit by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges on November 15-16, 2016. James Margeson attended as an observer. This item will be on the May 9, 2017 Agenda.
 - d. Update on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges activity at Northeast Catholic College, The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, and New England College.
 - e. Update on the continued expansion of NC-SARA states, with 47 states and the District of Columbia now participating.
 - f. Update on progress in working with the U.S. Department of Education in securing information relating to students who have started a FAFSA, but failed to complete the application. There is reasonable hope this transfer of data can be initiated this spring and enable NH to pursue a "FAFSA Completion" effort similar to successful models in many states.
 - g. Summary of the December 2016 *Status of Higher Education in New Hampshire* report which will be mailed to commissioners and is available via a link on the Division website. The value of the "Research and News" addendum as a quick method to skim potential articles/reports of interest that may have missed was noted.
 - h. Summary of continued growth in the Veterans educational benefits being secured through NH colleges, universities, and career schools, with annual tuition benefits now projected to reach \$50 million, a 25% increase over the prior year.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.